

UK Master Plan Update

UNAC Group Meeting Minutes

Location: King Alumni House
Date: September 12, 2012

I. Master Plan Overview

Members of the team working on the Master Plan update attended the regular meeting of the University Neighborhood Advisory Council in order to explain the planning process for this update and to gain feedback from this group on issues that they would like the Master Plan to focus on in regards to neighborhoods adjacent to campus. President Capilouto was also in attendance to hear and discuss this group's concerns.

It was noted that this is the broadest group of stakeholders ever involved in the planning process at UK, and that the University was committed to including as many types of stakeholders as they can.

II. Discussion of Neighborhood Related Issues

The following questions and concerns were highlighted. Responses by the project team are in parentheses:

- Will the data gained through Omar Blaik's study be used in this process? Much time and energy went into discussions between the neighborhoods and Mr. Blaik, and the fear is that the university will duplicate these efforts and start from square one. (The university responded by stating that UK respects his work and desired him to be a part of this update but both parties were unable to agree on terms. The university plans to build on his work and has already supplied his report to Sasaki.)
- Is the new Ophthalmology Clinic being considered in the plan in terms of parking and traffic in this area? (This has already been factored into the current plans for that area and will continue to be evaluated)
- Parking on game days is a continued problem.
- The phrase 'coming to mutual conclusions' has been used in reference to this planning process. As neighbors, we define that as a collaboration of input that is listened to, and we hope that this will indeed occur. We want to know that the input is being clearly included in the planning efforts.
- The area around Prall Town has experienced more break-ins recently. Overgrowth in the area around the railroad may be a factor, and it is definitely a safety issue.
- The infiltration of students into the neighborhoods over time has had a major impact. The neighborhoods that have tipped from mainly owner-occupied to mainly rentals have been impacted detrimentally. Faculty and staff no longer live in the adjacent neighborhoods as a rule, which adds to the decline.
- A slow decline in the adjacent neighborhoods can also be attributed to the housing stock being so old and being neglected over time by landlords. Not sure some areas can recover. The vinyl boxes that are being built now will not be sustainable over time.
- Homeowners feel as though they are always trying to outsmart the developers and stay one step ahead of them in order to keep their neighborhoods from being ruined.

- Improvements to the main approaches to campus should be considered as Gateways in the Master Plan.
- Residents would like to be a part of the discussion early on when projects are planned in their neighborhoods. They do not like to be blindsided as they were with power pole project.
- Communication breakdowns in the past have created a cynical attitude with many residents that UK will not come through on promises to include any of their ideas in the Master Plan.

III. Other Observations and Ideas

- The neighborhoods that have a balance between owner-occupied housing and student rentals seem to have the least problems.
- It's nice that the University is quick to respond to incidents of vandalism or heavy trash in the neighborhoods, but the students should be held responsible for these infractions.
- Other universities have employee assisted housing programs in place that should be researched. UK's program does not have enough incentives to get more faculty and staff to buy homes and live in them.
- The University needs to have a more thoughtful presence in the neighborhoods. They could purchase, rehabilitate and re-sell homes along the perimeter to faculty and staff. A possibility would be to have several of the university departments collaborate on building a home that is a model for sustainability.
- A Community Engagement office that has a storefront in the neighborhoods was suggested as a means for UK to allow adjacent neighbors to have an accessible place to go with questions and concerns as they occur.

IV. Positive Feedback

- A good example of various groups working together to make a positive impact are the Maxwell Street sidewalks. The University, LFUCG, and the neighborhood combined efforts as well as funds to replace sidewalks and add curbs and bike lanes. This has made a major impact on this stretch of road.
- The communication between UK and neighbors has become much better over the years.

V. President's Remarks

Dr. Capilouto listened intently to all of the concerns and ideas brought forth by the council. He noted that he is committed to finding solutions to many of the recurring problems as quickly as possible. The neighborhoods surrounding UK are one of his priorities, especially stopping the decline before neighborhoods tip to the point of not being recoverable.

The President discussed what he saw when he toured neighborhoods around campus both pre and post football game on September 8. He and Bob Wiseman directed UK crews to clean up litter up on streets after game that was created from fans. The President also spoke of the need to address the many neighborhood issues as a partnership between UK, the city and the residents. He indicated a willingness to work with the residents and the city to support and strengthen ordinances that impact the neighborhoods. Lastly, the President noted that he has directed UK Student Affairs to explore how UK can be more aggressive in holding students more

accountable for their off campus behavior.

Minutes prepared by Judy Needham.

These are intended to be a record of the general issues discussed and are not meant to be a quotation of any individual(s) attending the meeting.

cc: Attendees